

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims

I/We claim:

1. Apparatus support structure (V) for container handling machines, ~~particularly for bottle filling machines, with at least comprising~~ entry and exit stars (A, Z, D), ~~where each star is each entry and exit star being arranged on a support housing (1) and can be driven~~ drivable from the inside of the support housing, ~~and where with~~ a star configuration (K) is ~~defined being defined~~ by the relative positioning of the entry and exit stars, ~~within which configuration the support housing (1) is (1) being within the star configuration and fixed~~ above the floor plane (B) and beneath the transport plane (T) in a support structure (S) which stands on the floor, ~~characterized in that the support structure (S) is (S) being one of a pipe and/or or profile frame (6), which is and~~ substantially horizontal and ~~defines defining~~ the fixation plane (F), ~~and which consists the support structure formed of the sections (7) and the floor feet (8), which are the sections (7) and floor feet (8) being connected to each other at nodes (N), preferably in each case by detachable means, either by one of~~ directly or via a support housing (1), ~~where in wherein~~ the feet the support housing (1) stands freely and is arranged in such a manner that open areas (15) are formed around the support housing, and ~~in that~~ at least some sections (7) can be combined with each other and with the support housings (1) ~~preferably in such a manner that whereby~~ the star configuration (K) ~~can be changed is~~ changeable as desired.

2. Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that, wherein~~ in addition to the entry and exit stars (A, Z, D), at least one additional container handling component (E1, E2, E3), ~~such as a closing device, an inspection device, a labeling machine or similar device,~~ is fixed at a node (N) of one of the pipe or profile frame (6).

3. Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein,~~ in addition to the entry and exit stars (A, Z, D), at least one additional container handling component (L) is fixed, ~~such as, a conveyor, a splash removing device or similar device on one of sections (7) and/or or~~ at nodes (N) of the pipe and profile frame (6).

4. Apparatus support structure according to ~~at least one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 2, wherein at least the entry and exit stars (A, Z, D) and optionally
~~each additional container handling component (E1, E2, E3, L)~~ are arranged inside of the
external circumference which is defined by externally located sections (7) of the pipe and
profile frame (6).

5. Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, ~~wherein, characterized in~~
~~that~~—in a top view with viewing direction towards the ~~floor~~—floor, the thickness of the
section (7) is smaller than the diameter of the support housing (1) and of the feet (8).

6. Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the sections (7) of the pipe frame (6) are one of straight stainless steel pipes or round
solid profiled parts, ~~preferably having identical external diameters.~~

7. Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the sections (7) of the profile frame (6) are profiled parts whose bottoms are open,
and whose surfaces pointing away from the floor are one of curved or flat and slanted
towards the floor.

8. Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein each section (7) presents at least one joining end (9), which fits with a connection
interface (11) of one of a support housing (1) or of a foot (8).

9. Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the individual sections (7) in the pipe or profile frame (6) ~~present~~ have one of blunt
impact or mitered impact joining ends (9').

10. Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the joining places in the pipe or profile frame (6) have an external flat design and
contain internal connection elements (12).

11. Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein at least some entry and exit stars (A, Z, D) ~~present~~ have individual drives (17)
accommodated in their support housings (1), ~~and preferably consisting of electrical servo~~
~~motors with drive systems or of electrical direct drive motors, and in that control and supply~~

strands (16) leading to the individual drive systems ~~are arranged preferably~~ in sections (7) of the pipe and profile frame (6).

12. Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, beneath the fixation plane (F) of the pipe and profile frame (6), on the bottom sides of the support housings (1), drive wheels (4), ~~such as sprocket wheels, toothed wheels or belt toothed wheels~~ are arranged free-standing, connected via overhung drive devices (5) with a central drive system.

13. Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~, wherein the drive (17) accommodated in the support housings (1) can be driven by drive strands (5') placed in sections (7).

14. Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each support housing (1) ~~presents~~ has a narrow upper part (1a), ~~which preferably tapers upward~~, and a broadened foot part (1b), and is mounted with a foot part (1b) on a bottom housing (1c), which forms the node (N) of the pipe and profile frame (6), where on the bottom housing at least two section connecting interfaces (11) are provided, which are offset about the axis.

15. Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~, wherein, one of in or on the pipe or profile frame (6), at least in some areas, covers (18) are provided, ~~preferably grids, metal plate parts, or plastic or glass parts~~.

16. (New) Apparatus support structure according to Claim 2, wherein the container handling component comprises are of a closing device, inspection device, and labeling machine.

17. (New) Apparatus support structure according to Claim 3, wherein the container handling component comprises one of a conveyor and splash removing device.

18. (New) Apparatus support structure according to Claim 1, wherein the section (7) of the pipe frame (6) have substantially identical external diameters.

19. (New) Apparatus support structure according to Claim 11, and wherein the individual driver (17) are electrical servo motors with drive systems or electrical direct drive motors.

20. (New) Apparatus support structure according to Claim 12, wherein the drive wheels (4) are one of sprocket wheels, toothed wheels or belt toothed wheels.

21. (New) Apparatus support structure according to Claim 14, wherein the narrow upper part (1a) tapers upwardly.

22. (New) Apparatus support structure according to Claim 15, wherein the covers (18) are one of grids, metal plate parts, plastic parts, or glass parts.

23. (New) Apparatus support structure according to Claim 4, wherein each additional container component is also arranged inside of the external circumference.